



INSIDE



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BUDGET CUTS



President Mohammad Qayoumi and Provost Ellen Junn discusses potential financial problems of the 2013-14 academic year despite the passing of Proposition 30.
Photo courtesy of Tyler Huffman

President addresses SJSU's financial future

By Kimberley Diaz
@SD_KDiaz

Despite the passing of Proposition 30, SJSU still faces fiscal challenges in the 2013-14 academic year, according to SJSU President Mohammad Qayoumi.

During a budget forum in the Loma Prieta room in the Student Union Tuesday Qayoumi said that because of the passing of the proposition, CSUs will no longer have to face a \$250 million additional cut.

They will still receive a \$132 million dollar cut and an additional \$7 million dollar cut, he said.

The proposition will increase taxes on those who earn over \$250,000 for seven years and will increase sales taxes by a quarter of a cent for four years to help fund schools.

"... Proposition 30 was to not pull the life plug from the machine, but the patient is still in the ICU," Qayoumi said.

Qayoumi also mentioned that the Board of Trustees approved a budget request for the Cali-

fornia State University system of \$440 million in 2013-14 and that an important element of it is a three-and-a-half percent compensation increase for faculty and staff.

"This has been overdue for five years or so," Qayoumi said.

Shawn Bibb, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer discussed the budget plan for next year and what the passing of Proposition 30 means for the school.

In addition, SJSU is expected to see a five percent enrollment increase, which will not cause any tuition increases, according to Bibb.

SJSU avoided a \$16.3 million trigger cut and will roll back tuition fees to the original rate established in the 2011-12 budget, which adds \$125 million dollars for next year, Bibb said.

However, because of a loss in revenue, SJSU will receive a \$7 million dollar cut, which, when calculated all together, shows the impact of Proposition 30 adds up to \$9.3 million dollars, according to Bibb.

He also added that a \$3.8 million dollar unallocated budget cut applied to the \$9.3 million

dollars will leave SJSU with \$5.5 million dollars for this year.

The cabinet will determine how the university will apply this money, according to Bibb.

SJSU will still suffer a \$27 million cut this year, and Bibb said that divisions will keep on working to implement those reductions.

After the initial budget review, questions and concerns from the audience were taken, particularly questions about possible new hires for faculty and salary increases.

Cheryl Vargas, Executive Director of Associated Students, was concerned about the passing of Measure D, which raises minimum wage from eight to \$10 an hour, and wondered what it could mean to students.

Bibb answered by saying that as a state agency, SJSU is not required to mandate \$10 an hour to their campus employees but will honor it anyway.

"It wouldn't be smart of us not to pay our students what they would be making if they

SEE FORUM ON PAGE 3

BUDGET CUTS

Language department could face downsizing

Classes with less than 15 students to be cancelled

By Sage Curtis
@sagedanielle

The California State University system's budget crisis has made maintaining programs in the World Languages and Literatures department difficult.

In order to save money, SJSU has cut classes that do not meet the minimum enrollment requirement of 15 students.

Within the World Languages and Literatures department, this presents a problem with the smaller programs, according to department chair Damian Bacich.

"In a typical semester, we probably cut about a tenth of our classes," Bacich said. "Classes get cut, but there are also classes that we simply can't put on the schedule at all because we know they won't get enrolled to 15 students."

Bacich said that, in recent semesters, the department has had to be stricter with the enrollment minimums, which has affected the smaller language programs such as German, Portuguese and French.

The department currently lists 13 different language programs under the head of World Languages and Literatures.

"The problem is we don't have enough classes right now to support some full majors," Bacich said. "The solution we have is to try to build enrollment and support in

SEE CLASS ON PAGE 3

CAMPUS

Panel to discuss nuclear relation between U.S., Iran

By Sage Curtis
@sagedanielle

Nuclear relations between the United States and Iran will be discussed today at a panel event featuring three distinguished speakers.

Dr. Mahmoud Monshipouri, Nazy Kaviani and Firuzeh Mahmoudi will speak at the event entitled "Nuclear Ambitions, Human Rights and the Future of U.S.-Iran Relations" on the current events surrounding Iran's nuclear ambitions and what it means for the new Obama administration and human rights activists.

"There is a unique opportunity to bring Iranians and Americans together for the first time in 30 years," said Monshipouri, an associate professor at San Francisco State University. "This is a chance to be part of a historical moment where there is a potential for a bilateral, one-on-one discussion between the countries."

The speakers will each offer something different in the discussion, according to Shahin Gerami, coordinator of the women's studies department and co-sponsor of the event.

"We have an academic perspective from Monshipouri, a journalistic perspective from Kaviani and a

human rights perspective from Mahmoudi," Gerami said. "All are important to understand the consequence of another war in Iran."

Along with Monshipouri's academic background, Kaviani and Mahmoudi will represent the voice of human rights representatives for the Iranian people.

Kaviani uses her poetry and writing to voice the violations of human rights in Iran and has had her work published in "The Poetry of Iranian Women" and "Confronting the Clash: The Suppressed Voices of Iran," according to information from the Persian studies program.

Mahmoudi is the co-founder and director of United for Iran Human Rights Group and the international co-coordinator of the environmental health coalition Health Care Without Harm, according to the program's information.

"Non-state factors affect diplomacy and sanctions," Monshipouri said. "Having all three of us together provides a larger picture of all of the issues that go into political discussions and negotiations."

Gerami said that it is important for students to understand the relationship between the two countries

SEE PANEL ON PAGE 2

ENVIRONMENT

Campus project encourages youth to go green

By Camille Nguyen
@camillediem

Enthusiasts of eco-friendly lifestyles may have found their icon in the Green Ninja, a character developed by San Jose State University students and faculty in an attempt to educate others about sustainable living.

"We're just trying to teach them about climate science and protecting the environment," said David Chai, co-producer of the Green Ninja and animation/illustration pro-

fessor. "So this is our climate action superhero, the Green Ninja."

Chai said the animators of the Green Ninja wanted to create a recognizable international icon for environmentally conscious and sustainable living, much like how Smokey the Bear acted as the face for forest fire prevention.

"Our primary goal is to educate young people about climate science and then give them the tools and inspiration to do something about it,"

SEE ANIMATION ON PAGE 2

CAMPUS IMAGE



Students study at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library yesterday evening. The final day of class will be on Thursday, Dec. 6. **Photo by Derik Irvin / Spartan Daily**

HEALTH

The new house call is online

By Jackie Crosby
McClatchy Tribune

Elle Ashton was pretty sure the “crud” that made her head feel like it was in a crushing vise had morphed into a sinus infection.

But with no health insurance, the 20-year-old college student and part-time restaurant worker said even a trip to MinuteClinic or Target seemed too expensive.

Ashton decided to log on to Virtuwell, an online medical clinic, for a diagnosis instead.

“I was skeptical,” said Ashton, of Minnetonka, Minn. “But the website was super user-friendly, and took all of 15 minutes to go through the questions.”

Web-based medicine is undergoing explosive growth as consumers, health insurers and employers are drawn to the convenience of timely, low-cost care for minor ailments.

Doctors and hospital systems are warming to the notion of round-the-clock e-visits as well, particularly as federal health reform rolls out. With an estimated 30 million Americans expected to gain access to insurance in 2014, finding effective and low-cost ways to divert those with easy-to-diagnose problems such as earaches, pink eye and skin rashes can help alleviate a looming shortage of primary care doctors.

Medicare doesn’t cover such visits, but analysts believe it’s only a matter of time.

“People have been working on this for three or four years,” said Tom Charland, CEO of Merchant Medicine, whose Shoreview, Minn., company tracks the growth of retail clinics and the changing health care model. “They’re starting to figure it out and knock down barriers. When this happens,

e-visits and telemedicine are really going to take off.”

Ashton said a nurse practitioner called back within a half-hour to follow up, after Ashton noted on the form that she got hives from certain antibiotics. In short order, a prescription for the sinusitis was ready and Ashton was back resting in her “sick bed.” Total bill: \$44.

“I was worried about giving so much personal information on the computer, but it felt very secure,” she said. “I felt like they had my back.”

Bloomington, Minn.-based HealthPartners launched Virtuwell in September 2010 and has relied on a snappy marketing campaign that has included messages on bar coasters, ads about bladder infections on stall doors of women’s restrooms and billboards with a giant tissue box.

HealthPartners officials



Virtuwell, an online wellness plan, advertises on a billboard in Minnesota. Web-based medicine is undergoing explosive growth as consumers, health insurers and employers are drawn to the convenience of timely, low-cost care for minor ailments. **Photo by Joel Koyama / MCT**

say the number of patients treated through the Virtuwell site tripled in its second year and that more than 40,000 have paid for the service to date.

St. Paul, Minn.-based Zipnosis launched a similar service after a one-year pilot program in 2009. Zipnosis has seen 10,000 patients to date, and expects to double or triple that number in the first six months of 2013.

Both Zipnosis and Virtu-

well expect to expand into new states and develop mobile applications in the next quarter.

“It was sort of a controlled release,” said Zipnosis CEO Jon Pearce, one of the founders. “Now there’s less concern with regulatory pressure. Employers are signing up for the service and we’re partnering with health systems. There’s more reliable volume and a high repeat rate.”

Both Virtuwell and Zipnosis rely on licensed nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat a limited set of common ailments. People with urgent issues or who need to be seen in person are given referrals.

Virtuwell handles insurance claims with more than a dozen major insurers, in addition to its own HealthPartners’ plan. Zipnosis provides a claim for patients to file on their own.



The Green Ninja was created by SJSU alumnus Eugene Cordero. **Photo courtesy of Eugene Cordero**

Animation: promoting activism

FROM PAGE 1

said Eugene Cordero, co-creator of the Green Ninja and meteorology professor.

He added that the primary audience of the Green Ninja were students from grades six through 12 and the main method of education was through various media, like videos and cartoons.

According to Cordero, the Green Ninja was originally conceptualized in November of 2010 when he and other faculty members from the meteorology and climate science and animation/illustration departments wanted to give sustainable and environmentally friendly living an entertaining and playful persona.

The eccentricity of the Green Ninja is displayed through quick three to four minute videos, or webisodes, where the character is seen either in live-action or cartoon form coming to the aid of people struggling with adapting to sustainable living.

Topics covered in Green Ninja webisodes include information about decreasing one’s impact on the environment as well as clips about the benefits of certain legislative reforms such as the citywide plastic bag ban that went into effect earlier this year.

One webisode features a young man waking up to see his feet enlarged and desperate for help, he seeks out the Green Ninja who helps shrink his feet by eliminating wasteful and environmentally harmful products from the man’s household, such as cleaning products made out

of hazardous chemicals and not creating or utilizing a recycling or compost bin.

Chai said the intent of the video was to increase awareness about carbon footprints and the small steps a person can take to get their lives on a greener track.

“We try to make our videos fun and interesting and quirky,” Cordero said.

He said the Green Ninja also worked directly with teachers to help them teach the topics of climate science in the classroom through the media provided by the Green Ninja.

Cordero said the animation and development team behind the Green Ninja videos place “Easter eggs” throughout the educational clips for teachers to click on and learn more about the environment, planet and sustainability.

The Easter eggs, according to Cordero, are clickable items, links and images that teachers can use to ask questions to their students to promote a more hands-on approach to learning.

From there, teachers are able to create their own lesson plans or use one that is provided from the Green Ninja team to teach students.

While the Green Ninja is primarily supported by SJSU faculty, the project’s real stars are the students who put their extra time and work into making creative media, according to Chai.

Animation/illustration alumnus Martin Cooper said he got involved with the project after Chai had asked

if any students were interested in pitching ideas for the Green Ninja.

“About six to eight students pitched ideas and Eugene Cordero ended up picking mine,” he said. “From there I created a final storyboard version of the film, then I directed and worked with about 30 to 40 students to design and animate the final version of the short.”

Despite being introduced to the Green Ninja in the middle of his undergraduate career, Cooper said he had always imagined himself working on projects similar to the Green Ninja.

“I really believe in the message and I was stoked to have the opportunity to create something that might make somebody think differently about the way they consume things,” he said, noting that the majority of the information regarding conservation and consumption awareness is bland and boring.

In addition to providing a fresh take on a seemingly tired subject, Cooper said he has also found meaning in his work with the Green Ninja.

“Most of my work is just goofy for the sake of (being) goofy, but it is fun to create things that have a real purpose,” he said. “Being able to present ideas in a visually entertaining way is a really powerful tool, it can change the way people think without them even knowing they changed.”

Camille Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @camillediem.

Panel: Experts offer perspective

FROM PAGE 1

because it directly affects their lives now and in the future.

“Higher education is in a budget crisis because we are funding two wars at the same time,” Gerami said. “These are extremely expensive. When we send our resources elsewhere, they cannot feed the services we need for young people. If there is an attempt to start another war,

that means worse things for our graduates.”

Gerami said the event is of utmost importance for students to understand where the two countries stand, not only with each other, but also with the other countries of the world in terms of the Iranian sanctions and nuclear war.

“We all have to be very, very vigilant,” she said. “There is a war going on all the time between Iran and

Israel and Palestine and Iraq, but it is kind of a clandestine war, not a clear cut war. We have to stop picturing it as something that is far away because it affects everybody’s pocketbook.”

The event will be held in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Room 225/229 at 7 p.m.


Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

Winter 2013

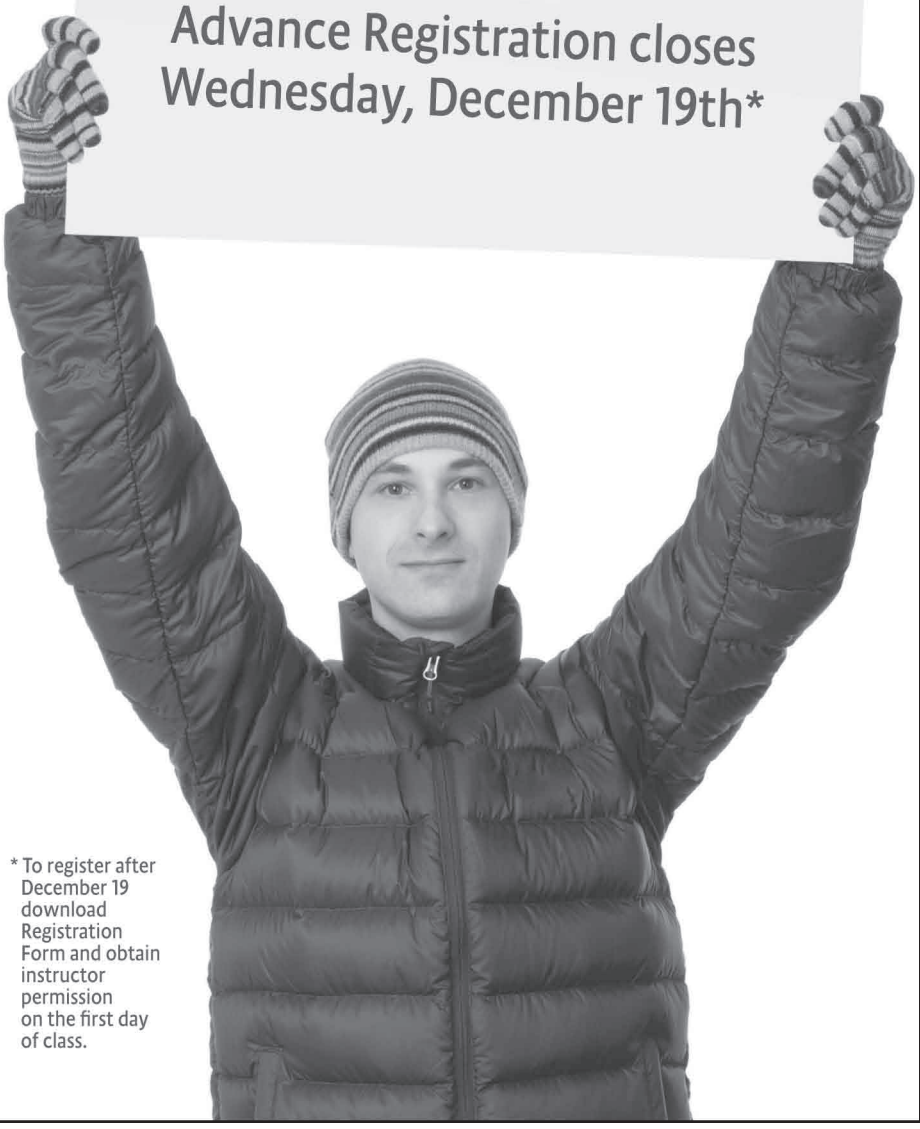
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Forum: Students raise concerns

FROM PAGE 1

were not working on campus,” Bibb said. “We decided we would comply with that minimum wage, should it get certified, and take the \$10 an hour effective June 1 of 2013.”

Herlinda Aguirre, a senior art history major and President of Students for Quality Education (SQE), had concerns over the buildings on campus that do not have air conditioning or heating, and if there was flexibility in the budget to update some of the older buildings so students can be more comfortable in their learning environment.

Qayoumi admitted that the last building built was the engineering building in 1988 and buildings are built on general obligation bonds, which haven’t been available in six years.

He said that he hopes to look into this and create a facilities master plan, but the reality is that it will become more like a five or 10 year plan.

Robert Carrera, a junior criminology major and student organizer with SQE, said he had concerns over class courses being cut and asked if more cuts will be made next year.

Qayoumi said that this was one of his main concerns and he was going to avoid cutting classes regardless if Proposition 30 passed.

“Regardless of Proposition 30, we will make sure we have the same number of courses offered in the fall,” Qayoumi said.

I say at least 70 percent of our students do absolutely nothing but come to class and leave.

Jonathan Roth, SJSU history professor

As more questions were asked, things became heated as Jonathan Roth, a professor of history, said that if many students come to school and do not use the other facilities and events offered, that the

budget should take that into consideration.

“I say that at least 70 percent of our students do absolutely nothing but come to class and leave,” Roth said. “That means, in my mind, that 70 percent of our budget should be going to faculty salaries to teach classes. Then, all of these sections that these students can’t get, would be taught.”

Provost Ellen Junn said that according to the Student Needs and Priorities Survey that the CSU issues to students every five years, students do participate in outer activities on campus.

Carrera said he disagreed with Roth, and that students do want to be involved on campus.

“It’s not so much they want to do nothing. It’s so much that they’re struggling,” Carrera said. “... they have to go off campus to work multiple jobs. They have to take care of their families, and they have other obligations. Sure, a lot of students do nothing, but that’s not who students are. A lot of them are here to succeed and work hard, and they love this campus.”

Kimberley Diaz is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_KDiaz.

Class: foreign language cuts loom

FROM PAGE 1

the programs to attract students to majors.”

Romey Sabalius, German adviser and professor, said that his program has suffered greatly from budget cuts, low enrollment and the minimum of the students.

“While the German enrollment has remained steady, more or less, over the past decade or so,” Sabalius said, “we’ve found ourselves under more and more pressure to have German classes cut because the requirements for minimum enrollment were raised.”

According to Sabalius, the program was able to offer upper-division classes of 10 students or less in the past, but those classes cannot be offered anymore.

“Often, in languages, (the minimum) is not very realistic,” Sabalius said. “You don’t always get the enrollment because students leave at every level.”

He said the cuts to classes have left the department with few choices about classes and programs.

“We are living with the choice of either offering a very limited curriculum that has Spanish and Chinese and some other popular languages classes,” he said, “or offering a whole range of languages where there might be few students enrolled.”

Other programs within the department are finding other ways to fund classes and keep them available for students within the department.

Deolinda Adão, Portuguese coordinator, adviser and lecturer, said that grants and help from the large Portuguese community in the area keep the program moving, regardless of cuts.

“We’re very lucky because the community fundraises every year to support the program,” Adão said. “The program has been co-funded since it began, which means if the classes are too small, I get to choose whether we keep them or not.”

Adão said that, even with community funds, the program has remained very small and can only teach the classes that students need for a minor.

“The classes are small by the nature of the beast,” Adão said. “Without the funds, we would probably only be offering one class. We need to have more beginning classes in order to have more students in the advanced classes.”

Students within the programs find it frustrating to not have the options that they need to graduate.

“Classes we need for our major are being canceled every semester,” said German major Jessica Mutschler. “This makes it impossible to finish a major and we are forced to do inde-

pendent studies or tutor other students. This means our education and our money is spent for us to teach ourselves, or others, instead of being taught and expanding our knowledge.”

Open University student Ivan Nikittin said that limited classes limit his opportunity to advance in his career.

“I seek to improve my German communication skills and cultural knowledge for my work,” Nikittin said. “Now that language programs are being cut, there is nowhere else left to go after you complete the community college language curriculum, which is especially embarrassing for Silicon Valley, which is supposed to foster a global collaboration environment.”

Bacich said he recognizes students need to take language classes and stresses that he sees the value in his department.

“Learning another language makes you know more about the reality of the world you live in,” Bacich said. “Language is something that you need to practice. You need to be in a situation where you can speak it with other people, so to not have a class where you can speak and be corrected, takes away a huge component of learning. That happens best in those smaller classes.”

Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

SpartaGuide

Minute 2 Win It
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Kinesiology Department
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Monday, Dec. 3 - Thursday, Dec. 6
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Art building quad


SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to spartandaily@gmail.com titled “SpartaGuide.” Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

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Including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland (page 2)

“Dear Leland...we hope that the issue you brought to the President's attention has been resolved. However, if you still need help with a Federal agency, we are pleased to assist you.”

By LELAND

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Pinterest pins hopes for broader appeal on holiday marketing push

By Jessica Guynn
McClatchy Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO — Pinterest is the one looking to get pinned this holiday season.

The popular social networking site that lets you collect and share images from around the Web by pinning them to virtual boards is looking to broaden its appeal with consumers and brands with a major marketing push.

Pinterest this month launched “30 Days of Pin-spiration,” holiday themed boards filled with an assortment of tips from an eclectic mix of celebrities, businesses and others. Among the contributors are chef Paula Deen and Jordan Ferney, creator of the party and lifestyle blog Oh Happy Day, as well as the NBA, the U.S. Marine Corps and Starbucks. Katie Couric kicked off the campaign with her favorite Thanksgiving recipes.

Pinterest recently began offering accounts for businesses and free tools to help them woo Pinterest users. Pinterest also said it plans to offer more business services including business analytics.

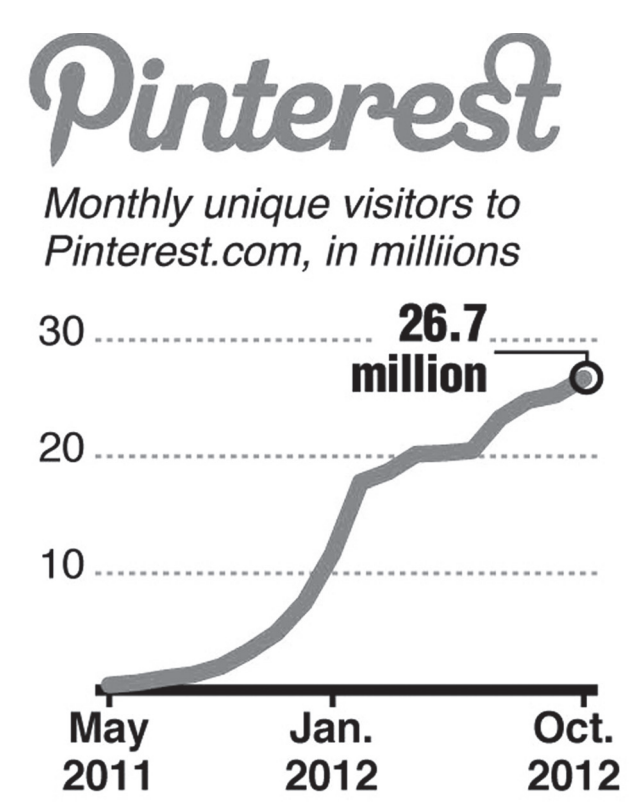
Pinterest won’t say what kind of business model it plans to roll out or even if it makes money. But the San Francisco startup is clearly stepping up its efforts to cash in on its explosive popularity, Altimeter Group analyst Susan Etlinger said.

“Pinterest is starting to grow up, and it’s starting to get serious about appealing to retailers,” she said.

Founded in 2009, Pinterest has quickly become one of the Web’s largest social networks and one of the fastest growing. Research firm ComScore says Pinterest had nearly 27 million unique visitors last month, up from 3.3 million in October 2011. Its meteoric rise has attracted investors who in May forked over \$100 million in funding that valued the 80-employee company at an eye-popping \$1.5 billion.

Yet, like Facebook and Twitter, Pinterest has taken a slow, cautious approach to formulating its business strategy, in part to avoid the misfires of other social networks, analysts say. Pinterest says it’s intent on finding a business model that makes the experience better for users.

“This is definitely a journey for us. We are having a



Source: ComScore
Graphic: Los Angeles Times © 2012 MCT

lot of conversations with different businesses to find out what they like about Pinterest and find out how we can work together most effectively,” said Pinterest’s head of operations, Don Faul.

Major brands and mom-and-pop shops are experimenting with Pinterest because so many of its users — mostly women — are in their target audience. These women spend hours on Pinterest curating collections of photographs of do-it-yourself Thanksgiving centerpieces and Christmas decorations, engagement rings, cozy fall sweaters and midcentury modern furniture and accents.

“Women in particular are flocking to Pinterest in a much faster way than to other social media networks,” said Derek Dodge, supervising producer of integrated media for Couric’s syndicated show. “When we started creating the show, we knew Pinterest was going to be a part of it.”

About a third of all brands are active on the service, according to a report on social media from Econsultancy and Adobe. Retailers such as Macy’s, Neiman Marcus, Whole Foods Market and Williams-Sonoma have set up shop there, and many add “Pin It” buttons to their product pages to make it easier for users to post and share images. Online retailer Zappos has even launched a service called PinPointing that recommends Zappos products

based on Pinterest pins and boards.

Recent studies show that Pinterest can influence shopping patterns. And the average retail order from shoppers coming from Pinterest is \$169, compared with the \$95 people shell out when they come from Facebook and the \$71 they spend when they come from Twitter, according to a study by RichRelevance.

But that same study showed that shoppers clicking through from Facebook made up more than 86 percent of the traffic, with Pinterest getting little more than 11 percent. Online shoppers also complain that it’s often difficult to shop from Pinterest unless an image contains a hyperlink or a product name in the description.

And many businesses are still waiting to see if Pinterest can gain a broader audience or if it will lose its footing as one of the Web’s most popular pastimes, Etlinger said. Which means Pinterest has to make a better case to businesses on how people use the service and how that can drive sales.

“Retailers and other organizations using social media to generate revenue have to think about the behavior of consumers on these sites and understand it deeply before jumping to conclusions about which site is most effective for them over the long term,” she said.

Analysts say this “fundamentally flawed” U.S. stance toward the Palestinians would require a miracle breakthrough — such as a sudden shift in Israeli policy or an equally improbable U.S. rapprochement with regional player Iran — for the Obama administration to rejuvenate peace talks as a broker respected by all sides.

“You haven’t helped out Abbas nearly enough and yet you won’t talk to Hamas, so who does that leave you with in the Palestinian leadership?” said Rafael Frankel, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University in Washington whose research focuses on Israel and the militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. “It’s a short-sighted, misguided policy. The United States has left itself in a position of basically having no

leverage or ability to negotiate with the Palestinian side at all.”

Instead, observers of the conflict say, the near future portends an extension of the Palestinian status quo of statelessness: worsening living conditions, limited mobility and internecine political rifts. And those internal divisions are only likely to deepen now that Hamas has emerged as the stronger Palestinian political force, supported by U.S. allies Egypt, Qatar and Turkey.

If the U.S. won’t back Abbas’ U.N. bid, which some analysts said will have little practical effect, then it certainly wouldn’t risk an even bolder move such as talking to Hamas, especially with President Barack Obama trying to avoid divisive issues as he seeks broad supports for a fiscal cliff compromise.

NATIONAL

Following oil spill charges, BP suspended from federal contracts

By Sean Cockerham
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government is suspending oil giant BP from winning new federal contracts or oil leases, saying the company’s “lack of business integrity” makes it an unfit partner in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The Environmental Protection Agency says the suspension is indefinite. It will last “until the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards.”

The action stems from criminal charges against BP for the Deepwater Horizon disaster that began on April 20, 2010, killing 11 workers and leading to a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

BP this month agreed to plead guilty and pay a \$4.5 billion penalty. The government also is pursuing a civil lawsuit against BP over the spill.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s decision suspends BP from new federal leases and contracts, but the company will be able to continue existing arrangements with the government. The British oil company is the leading supplier of fuel to the U.S. military, with a contract worth more than \$1 billion a year.

It also is among the top drillers in Alaska and the largest producer of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico. BP’s suspension was announced just before a lease sale Wednesday in the western Gulf of Mexico. Tommy Beaudreau, director of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said the government would not award “any bid for which BP was the high bidder until the suspension was resolved.”

But Beaudreau didn’t join the EPA in slamming the company. “BP has gone through significant internal reforms,” he said. “I believe BP is genuine and sincere about reforming the way it does business offshore and making real changes not only to its practices but its culture.”

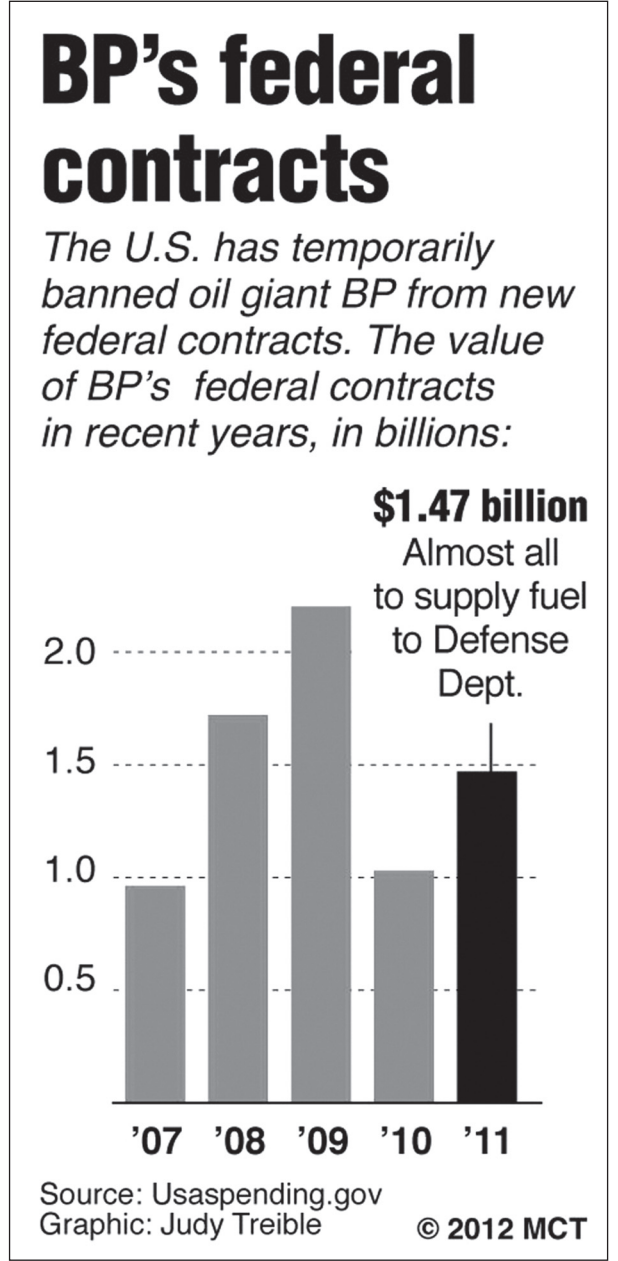
Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer has said the Deepwater Horizon disaster was a result of BP’s culture of “profit over prudence.”

EPA officials would not say what exactly BP needs to do to show that it meets federal business standards and have the suspension lifted.

BP released a statement saying the EPA indicated a draft agreement would be out soon on what has to happen to end the suspension. The company said that following the Deepwater Horizon disaster, it made leadership changes, reorganized its business and adopted vol-

percent of BP’s global production. The impact on BP depends on the length of the suspension and if the company gets a waiver from the Department of Defense to allow it to provide fuel, said Scott Amey, general counsel for the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog organization.

He said some suspensions last just a few days and others more than a year.



untary drilling standards.

“In the two and a half years since the Deepwater Horizon accident, the U.S. government has granted BP more than 50 new leases in the Gulf of Mexico, where the company has been drilling safely since the government moratorium was lifted,” the company said in its statement.

Federal contracting suspensions usually don’t last more than 18 months. But the government could hold off on lifting the suspension until court action against BP is resolved.

The United States accounts for more than 20

“We’ll have to wait to find out what the long-term impact is,” Amey said. “I think that this is a sign the government is taking its responsibilities seriously.”

Massachusetts Rep. Ed Markey applauded the suspension, saying that BP behaved recklessly in the Gulf of Mexico and now has to pay the penalty.

“This kind of timeout is an appropriate element of the suite of criminal, civil and economic punishments that BP should pay for their disaster,” said Markey, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. dilemma at UN: Undermining Palestinian statehood may strengthen Hamas

By Hannah Allam
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — On the eve of a Palestinian bid for U.N. recognition as a nonmember state — a move that’s expected to succeed despite strident U.S. opposition — the Obama administration’s policy conundrum over the Palestinians appears stark.

On one hand, the U.S. government is publicly lambasting Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who’s part of the secular Fatah movement that controls the West Bank, for his appeal to U.N. members on Thursday. On the other, U.S. policy bars contact with the Islamist militants of Hamas, the faction in control of the Gaza Strip and which the United States considers a terrorist group.

“The administration can’t oppose the Palestinians on every single thing all the time,” Perry said. “Once again, we’re going to end up in a forum in which we stand alone with Israel and no one else except maybe Micronesia.”

The U.S. opposition to Abbas’ move plays to the advantage of Hamas, which would appear to be riding high these days, racking up a public relations victory in Israel’s bloody

Gaza offensive, a political ascent via the Muslim Brotherhood allies in charge of Egypt next door, and a financial boost from Persian Gulf friends such as Qatar, whose ruler recently pledged \$400 million for development in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

“It’s a strategic win of some magnitude for Hamas,” Perry said.

Other analysts say some of the group’s victory claims are exaggerated or that it’s too early to tell the long-term consequences for regional diplomacy.

On the ground, Israel’s recent eight-day bombing campaign in Gaza did wipe out Hamas weapons reserves and kill one of the group’s top strategists. The group’s violent resistance, firing hundreds of rockets into Israel, has done

little but invite Israeli retaliation and has done nothing to advance Palestinian statehood. There’s only so much Hamas can ask of Egypt, which has enough domestic problems without rankling Israel or taking responsibility for Gaza. And the Saudis, who hold more sway with the Americans than other Gulf states, aren’t nearly as warm as the Qataris toward Hamas.

Perry, who still speaks to senior leaders of the group regularly, noted that Hamas also is still struggling with internal divisions between the Gaza-based faction that takes a harder line toward national reconciliation and regional diplomacy and the external leadership, which is seen as more pragmatic and willing to work with international partners.

STUDENTS

Women overcome obstacles to excel in engineering field

By Jacque Orvis
@jacqueorvis

SJSU women are excelling in engineering while overcoming gender stereotype issues that still exist in the classroom and the workplace. “Women have to be better,” said Joy Franco, an SJSU mechanical engineering senior and section president of the SJSU student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. “You can’t survive if you’re just as good ... you actually have to be a lot better and prove your worth.”

Society of Women Engineers – or SWE – is a global, nonprofit organization that helps women “aspire, advance and achieve” in technology careers, according to Franco.

“SWE works directly to increase women in engineering by three means: outreach, peer support and professional development,” she said.

“(Engineering) is something I can be passionate about,” said Carissa Labriola, a junior computer engineering major and vice president of the SJSU student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. “Nothing quite frustrates me as much as when my program won’t (work), but nothing is quite as satisfying as when it works.”

According to National Science Foundation, women made up less than 18 percent of the undergraduates enrolled in engineering programs in 2009.

Only 16.8 percent of SJSU engineering students were

women, according to the SJSU Office of Institutional Research.

“Research supports the idea that women simply don’t feel comfortable in male dominated situations,” said SJSU psychology associate professor Greg Feist.

Feist researched the psychological reasons why few women chose to study engineering and focused on external and internal factors such as discrimination and interests, respectively.

He said people tend to underperform when they feel like a minority.

“Women who do go into STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and engineering in particular have to make it clear that they belong and are equal to or even better than some of the men,” he said.

Feist added that men may feel territorial so they tend to make women feel less welcome in the engineering field.

“My hunch is this is most true for the least secure men,” he said. “The more secure men won’t feel as threatened.”

Franco said some of her male classmates look over her shoulder as she works, trying to catch her make mistakes.

“It’s like this dog-attacking sort of feeling,” she said. “Part of the reason why this affects women more than it does men is because whenever we don’t do something right, subconsciously we’re making a statement about women as a whole.”

Courtney Vella, SJSU chapter of the Society of Women Engineers student adviser and senior chemical engineering major, said the society is helping women to move past feeling like victims in the classroom.

“If you don’t make a big deal out of anything,” she said, “then you’re going to feel equal.”

Vella said the society is kind of like therapy because it’s a place where people with different perspectives can bond over similar issues, such as poor exam grades or feeling singled out.

“Everybody in engineering goes through that point of ‘oh god, why am I here?’” Labriola said. “It’s hard.”

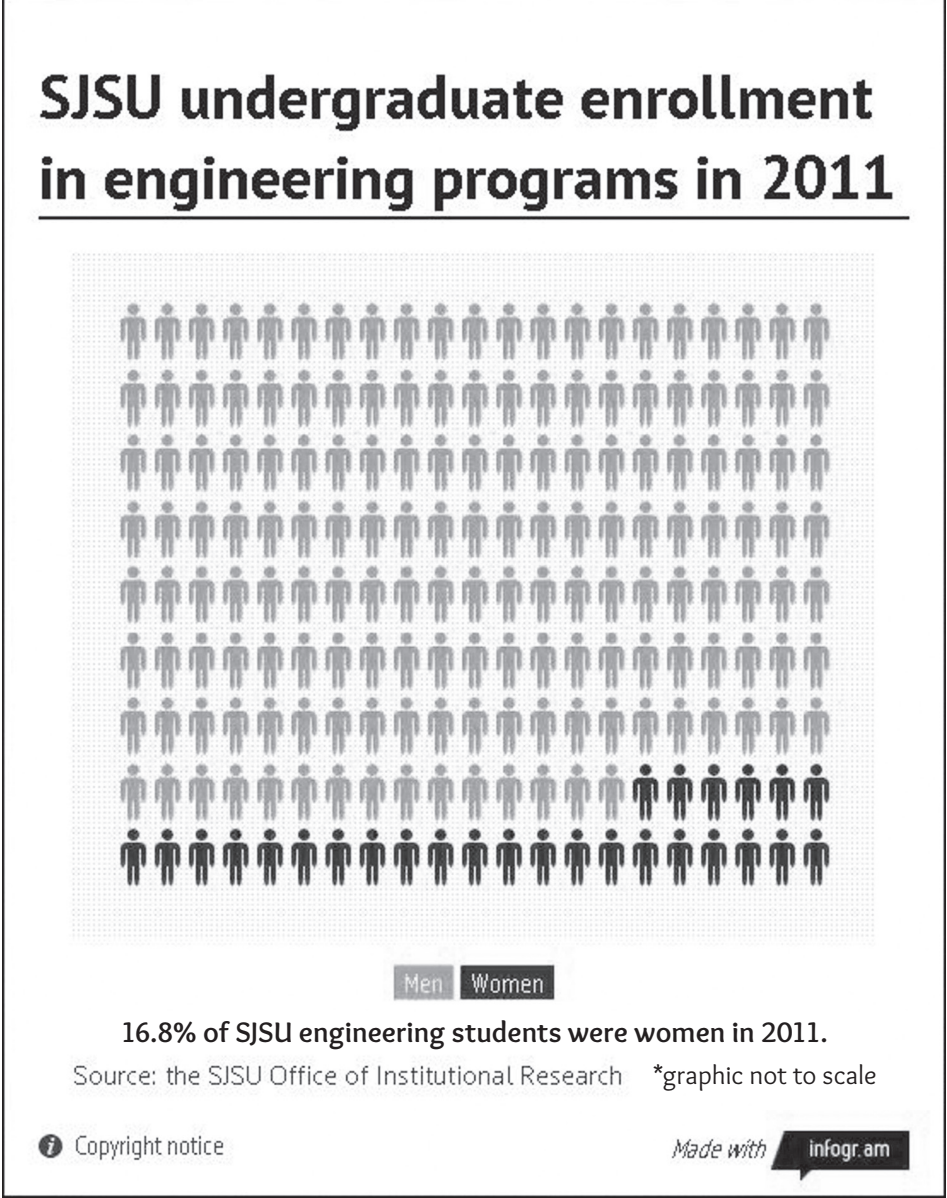
They said that the society is for men too and that they have male members.

“It gives them another leading edge on their part because they get to interact with us,” she said. “... because (they) get a different perspective.”

However, gender inequality persists regardless of attempts to even the playing field in engineering, according to an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Titled “Science Faculty’s Subtle Gender Biases Favor Male Students,” the article outlines a study that researched how science faculty rated student applications for a laboratory manager position.

According to the article, each application was randomly assigned a male or fe-



male name, and the faculty rated the students with male names as “more competent and hireable than the (identical) female applicant.”

The authors concluded the increase in women in engineering has not thwarted gender bias in the engineering careers.

“To the extent that faculty

gender bias impedes women’s full participation in science, it may undercut not only academic meritocracy, but also the expansion of the scientific workforce needed for the next decade’s advancement of national competitiveness.”

Jacque Orvis is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @jacqueorvis.

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Alex Smith has been out since he sustained a concussion Nov. 11 against the St. Louis Rams. He was cleared to play last week, but remains on the bench. Photo by Jose Carlos Fajardo / MCT



Colin Kaepernick has thrown for 474 yards, three touchdowns and one interception since taking over the role as the 49ers' starter. Photo by Nhat V. Meyer / MCT

COMMENTARY

QB controversy: Kaepernick is capable but Smith should be starter

By Dennis Biles
@Denny149

Quarterback controversies can split fans into groups that passionately support the player they think should be at the helm for their team.

As far as quarterback controversies go, the debate between San Francisco 49ers quarterbacks Alex Smith and Colin Kaepernick is a bit different than what we often see.

Usually there is a clear-cut choice as to who gives their team a better shot at winning.

In this instance however, we have two quarterbacks who are playing at their highest levels, and neither one has shown anything to prove that they don't deserve the opportunity to be the starter.

The debate has turned my Facebook feed into a Twilight-esque posting battle between Team Alex and Team Colin.

Those who support Kaepernick were surely thrilled yesterday when head coach Jim Harbaugh named Kaepernick as the starter for their Dec. 2 game at St. Louis.

Kaepernick may have shown that he has the talent, but I think that Smith should still be the starter.

Before suffering a concussion against the Rams, Smith ranked third in the NFL in passer rating (104.1) and led the league in completion percentage (70 percent) according to Yahoo Sports.

Smith had the best campaign of his career last year and had the team on track to pick up right where

they left off last season when they came up just short of making it to the Super Bowl.

After a very rough start to his career, the former No. 1 overall draft pick looked like he had finally figured it out.

Even when Smith struggled in a loss against the Giants earlier this year and was pulled for Kaepernick, I never really thought that his job would be in jeopardy.

Football, however, is a brutal game in which huge human beings hurl themselves at each other at inhuman speeds, so injuries are constantly providing backups with ample opportunity to prove that they can play.

Smith's injury opened a door of opportunity for Kaepernick, and the second-year quarterback has burst

his way right on through it.

After Smith left the Nov. 11 game in the second quarter, Kaepernick came in and threw for 117 yards and ran for 66 more.

The Niners would ultimately end up with a tie, but Kaepernick played well enough to lead the team back from a 17-7 halftime deficit after some initial stumbles.

With Smith still feeling concussion symptoms the next week, Kaepernick was called upon to make his first career NFL start against the Chicago Bears and their highly vaunted defense that ranks among the league's elite.

Looking more like a seasoned veteran than a kid making his first start, Kaepernick completed 16 of 23 passes for 246 yards with two touchdowns in a 32-7

dismantling of the Bears.

Smith was cleared to play the day before the 49ers played the Saints Nov. 25, but Harbaugh decided to stick with Kaepernick.

He didn't shine as brightly as he did against the Bears, but the sophomore signal caller still threw for 235 yards and a touchdown.

He was picked off once, but managed to avoid being sacked thanks to his quick feet, despite heavy pressure.

I can see why Harbaugh wants to play Kaepernick — he can run, he has a cannon for an arm and he isn't afraid to take risks.

Many consider him to be a more dynamic player because of his ability to scramble and keep plays alive.

I think he's a good quarterback, but I still believe that

Smith should be starting.

To put it simply, Smith had this team within a fumbled punt return of going to their first Super Bowl since 1995.

He's the most accurate quarterback in the league. He's fought adversity since he was drafted, and knows what it takes to survive in the NFL.

Obviously the switch hasn't been detrimental so far, but now that Kaepernick has played a few games, defenses will have had plenty of chances to get familiar with him.

He will have to adapt, and I'm not convinced it would be the best thing for the team or him at this juncture in the season.

Dennis Biles is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter @Denny149.

Classifieds

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Best known for his high-energy and interactive performances, Joshua Paige has become the fastest rising country performer on the West Coast. Performing at major fairs, festivals, and clubs, and sharing lineups with national stars including Zac Brown, Gary Allen, Lee Brice and Hunter Hayes, Paige has proven to be an act worth watching. Running around the stage like Garth, partying like Toby with a band full of rockers it's no wonder the show draws a crowd of wild fans!

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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58				59				60						
61				62			63	64				65	66	67
68				69						70				
71				72						73				

ACROSS

- 1 Committee head, briefly
- 6 Electrical pioneer Nikola
- 11 Victoria's Secret purchase
- 14 A defective might flash it
- 15 Ancient Andes dwellers
- 16 Scottish hero Roy
- 17 Evicting, essentially
- 19 Singleton
- 20 Heavy weight
- 21 Prefix for "eminent"
- 22 Abbr. on a toothpaste box
- 23 Chickens
- 27 Royal balliwick
- 29 William Tell's canton
- 30 Sounds of disapproval
- 32 Thailand, prior to 1939
- 33 A mouse moves over it
- 34 Sings like Torme
- 36 Birdlike
- 39 Newspaper clipping
- 41 Decorative sewing cases

- 43 Pre-deal chip
- 44 Jeffer of baseball
- 46 Fireplace item
- 48 Jones Index
- 49 A billion years, in astronomy (Var.)
- 51 Combustible funeral heap
- 52 Building wing
- 53 Be in command of
- 56 In a clear way
- 58 Fix, as a boxing match
- 59 Prior to, to a poet
- 60 Work wk. starter, usually
- 61 Yale grad Whitney
- 62 Enough for everyone and then some
- 68 It used to be light as a feather
- 69 Birth-related
- 70 Blender setting
- 71 Metric work unit
- 72 Looseness
- 73 Brown ermine

DOWN

- 1 You might have a handle on these
- 2 "Hem" companion
- 3 Suffix with "lemon" or "lime"
- 4 Marvin Gaye's "Can _____ Witness?"
- 5 Cops' paperwork
- 6 Soldier material?
- 7 Chang's twin
- 8 Rifleman's aide
- 9 Dern and Bush
- 10 Star sapphire, e.g.

Previous Puzzle Answer

B	E	R	G	A	L	I	T	I	B	T	A	K	I	N
A	V	E	R	R	I	S	E	N	L	A	M	A		
L	I	M	E	G	E	N	E	S	E	S	P	E		
K	N	O	C	K	O	U	T	P	U	N	C	H		
A	C	T	O	N	S	R	I							
N	E	E	O	N	S	R	E	X	P	I	R	E		
H	E	R	E	O	F									
R	E	D	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N		
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E	X	H	A	L	P	S	I	S	T	E	M			
P	U	R	R											
A	S	E	A											
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E	D	G	E	R										

- 11 Unbiased
- 12 Musical form with a refrain
- 13 At right angles to a ship's length
- 18 Bring on, as labor
- 23 Deity with a bow and arrow
- 24 Address Congress, say
- 25 Extending over a large area
- 26 Enunciate
- 28 Kilauaea flow
- 31 Go on the campaign trail
- 35 Female fortune-teller
- 37 Coral reef
- 38 Word with "wed" or "married"
- 40 Wrestling competition
- 42 Immunity providers
- 45 Seoul residents
- 47 Gets back
- 50 Common-place
- 53 Word with "paper" or "suzette"
- 54 Edmonton hockey player
- 55 Greek penny, once
- 57 Data fed to a computer
- 63 Fond du _____, Wis.
- 64 Big game
- 65 Athlete who plays for pay
- 66 Where cows graze
- 67 "Are we there _____?"

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

8		7		6			3	
5	4		7					
	2				8			
				4			3	
		8					5	
		6			7			
			1					9
					3		6	8
6				4		1		5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Previous Sudoku Answer

4	1	8	9	6	2	5	3	7
5	6	3	7	4	8	1	2	9
7	9	2	3	5	1	4	8	6
1	7	5	2	3	6	9	4	8
8	3	6	4	1	9	2	7	5
9	2	4	5	8	7	3	6	1
2	4	1	6	7	5	8	9	3
6	8	9	1	2	3	7	5	4
3	5	7	8	9	4	6	1	2



Of hipsters and critics



Nina Tabios' column appears every other Thursday.

Often times I am asked what my favorite thing about New York was, which is a difficult question to answer by itself, but when minimized to what was my favorite neighborhood, bar none Brooklyn takes the cake.

Broken away from the touristy New York City, I saw Brooklyn more as a small town with a history and diversity that detaches itself from Manhattan's overall characteristic.

As the birthplace of hip hop coincides with a heavy presence of Hasidic Jews, Brooklyn could be seen as the less glamorous New York, but the surge of music, art and food in the neighborhood of Williamsburg has elevated not only rent prices, but also ignited the migration of "hipsters" into the borough.

Reminiscent of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, Williamsburg is crawling with independent businesses: from restaurants to small boutiques to record stores that sell only 7-inch vinyls to thrifters' dream destination Beacon's Closet, Williamsburg has come to encompass all things associated with hipsters and contemporary culture.

Brooklyn reeked of all things considered hipster, and where some people may criticize it, I choose to embrace it.

What is hipsterdom, you ask? Or more so, what exactly is a hipster?

According to "How to Live Life Without Irony," a column in the New York Times' "Opinionator," by Christy Wampole, a hipster is a "contemporary urban harlequin" who "appropriates outmoded fashions." Wampole attributes mustaches, playing trombone, home brewing and portable record players as examples.

Wampole said she believes Americans born in the 1980s and 1990s — known as Generation Y — fall victim to this culture of irony as a result of what is "the belief that this generation has little to offer in terms of culture, that everything has already been done."

By coining the term, "ironic sensibility," Wampole criticizes hipsters and hipster culture because, in their attempts to separate themselves from the mainstream, oftentimes hipsters hide behind trends and ideas that were born before their time, therefore lacking any true connection to the meaning and formulation behind these concepts and ideas.

I think it seems the only thing we have going for us is the continuous advancements in technology — especially the Internet — but even that supports her idea of "irony."

Where digital technology

has allowed us to be in a multitude of virtual places at any given time, it has taken us out of what is present, out of what is actual, thus gaining less meaning from the present moment as far as Wampole is concerned.

I think that in Generation Y's search to create and define something as its own, the very factor that separates us from previous generations — technological advancements — is what is holding us back from establishing our own generational individuality.

Her use of Instagram as an example had me laughing: "the nostalgia cycles have become so short that we even try to inject the present moment with sentimentality — by using certain digital filters to "pre-wash" photos with an aura of historicity. Nostalgia needs time. One cannot accelerate meaningful remembrance," she said. I only found it funny because it's true.

In some rights, she has a point: the music we listen to derives elements from previous decades — this wave of "electronic dance music" has heavy roots in 1970s disco and Detroit house and techno music from the 1980s, yet a good percentage of the current generation probably couldn't tell you that — and current fashion has been teetering back and forth between the 1920s and the 1980s.

But didn't these same elements borrow from generations before them too? If I remember correctly, didn't Pablo

Picasso say, "good artists copy, great artists steal?"

I think what we as Generation Y seem to lack in originality, we make up for in innovation and alterations. Silicon Valley is a prime example for advancements in technology and using said advancements to further push boundaries in any given field.

Take DJing as an example: programs like Serato have allowed for disc jockeys to not only beat-match by ear, but by sight, making transitions more precise and clean, but also pushing the boundaries of what DJs can do in terms of techniques.

Several subgenres have been born out of DJs taking certain elements of music and altering them — house music used to be a single genre in the 1980s and 1990s, but now is the greater umbrella for several subgenres like juke, drum and bass and moombahton.

Each branch has defining characteristics that otherwise wouldn't have existed without technological advancements, even more so without the innovative characteristic by members of Generation Y.

The unfortunate part is that she's right in that the current mainstream does seem to lack real context, so we go searching for it where it once existed.

But what's wrong with paying homage to previous decades and the cultures associated with it? Isn't imitation the sincerest form of flattery?

Has she ever thought that hipsters delve themselves into such "outmoded fashions" not out of desperation to separate themselves from the mainstream, but simply because they don't like the mainstream?

Wampole's column had many valid points, but I think she failed to give credit where credit is due.

In every bit of irony, criticizing the hipster lifestyle seems like a very hipster thing to do.

Nina Tabios is the Spartan Daily Sports Editor. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_NTabios.



Honda's new car screams sexism



Jordan Liffengren's column appears every Thursday.

Do you or someone you know suffer from being what most people would call a "girly girl?"

Do pink items, tutus or acrylic nails make you squeal with delight?

Do you refer to diamonds as your best friend?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then the new Honda Fit "She's" model might be the perfect addition to your fancy, fluffy, pretty life.

The car company recently introduced the "She's" model in Japan, created specifically for female drivers.

The vehicle comes with standard features such as a "plasma cluster" air conditioning system to keep skin moisturized, a windshield that blocks 99 percent of ultraviolet rays to prevent wrinkles, and pink stitching in the seats because — it's adorable.

"She's" come in three different colors: pink, brown and white, to "match a woman's eye shadow."

Japanese women have dubbed the new car "kawaii," or "cute."

But not I.

First off, I must point out that "She's" is a horrible model name, in terms of grammar.

In order to be possessive, "she" must be changed to "hers." There is no such thing as "she's" in the English language. We can go back to elementary school and relearn these things if it will help you, Honda.

And, if not completely obvious, I find this project offensive.

I don't understand why a

car must be marketed specifically to a woman.

Who decided transportation devices needed to be classified by gender of the driver? And then as a slap in the face tell women they only get the tiny, pearly pink-colored one?

I mean, if this is going to happen, why doesn't Honda make a male version of the Fit (called "He's," of course, if we're going to continue following the stupid brick road) with features like a beef-jerky dispenser, a video game controller for a steering wheel, and a built-in air freshening system that smells like barbecue ribs?

That's just as stereotypical as the women's version, right?

And frankly, the features that are added to the car to make it more "feminine" should be in every car, no matter who is driving it.

The ultraviolet-resistant windshield is a great safety feature, and I'm sure everyone would appreciate the fountain of youth air conditioning system.

As far as the colors go, thanks, Honda, for assuming I am a vain princess that wants daddy to buy her a car the same color as her new eye shadow.

I'm a grown-ass woman that would like a safe, reliable and comfortable vehicle. I don't really care what color the car is, just as long as it doesn't make me stick out like a sore thumb to highway patrol when I'm running late for work.

I would never consider purchasing something like the "She's."

I'd rather get a Brazilian wax than buy that dinky, sexist thing.

At least I would be the only one who could see my outright rejection of self-repect and empowerment.

Jordan Liffengren is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @JLiffengren_spartandaily.



Are you in a bind? Need a voice of reason? Just ask Kelsey in her advice column!

"In my Experience" runs every Tuesday. You can send in your question anonymously, and if selected you could win a prize.

Submit your question to spartandaily@gmail.com or visit Spartan Daily office DBH 209

SPARTAN DAILY

STAFF FALL 2012

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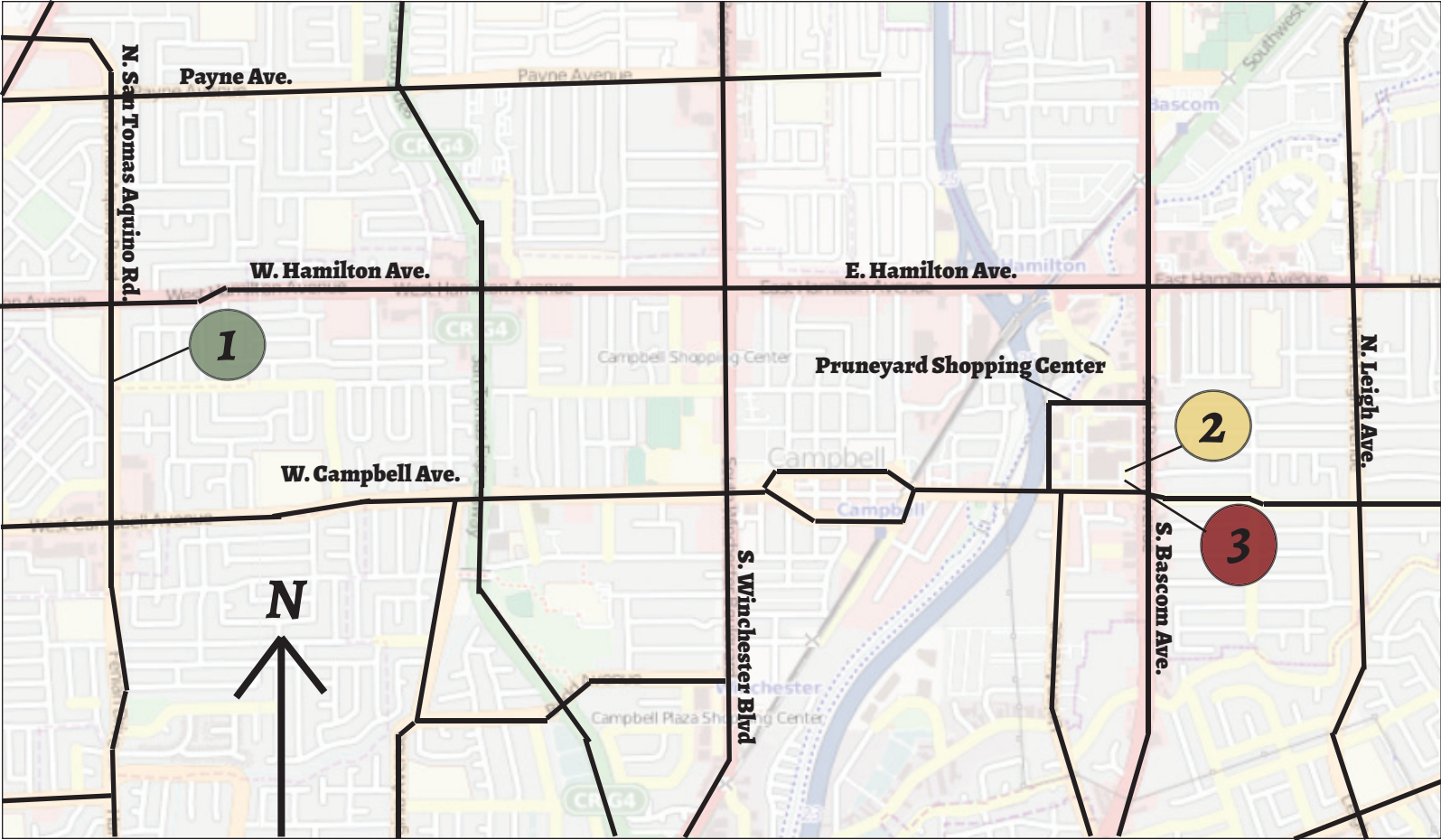
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RESTAURANT GUIDE

Campbell Gastronomy: Best places for affordable dining

By Thyra Phan
@ThyraPhan



Infographic by Julie Tran / Spartan Daily

1. Jovie Coffee and Pho

136 N. San Tomas Aquino, Campbell, CA 95008

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2. Café Artemis

1875 S. Bascom Ave. #300, Campbell CA 95008

Open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

3. Sugar Butter Flour

875 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, CA 95008

Open Sunday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Price Range:

\$ - \$1 to \$9 per meal
\$\$ - \$10 to \$18 per meal

1 Jovie Coffee and Pho (\$- \$\$)

Jovie Coffee and Pho isn't your typical pho restaurant. It provides an upscale dining experience with soothing jazz music and dining decor: cream-colored lace curtains and gold-colored linen on tables and drinks served in clear glass chalices.

The menu is reasonably priced, ranging from \$4.99 for a bánh mì (a sandwich on a homemade French baguette with grilled meat and vegetables) served with a house salad to hearty pho soups, from \$7 to \$9.

I ordered the Organic Saigon Spring Rolls (\$6.75) – the shrimp and pork were juicy and the rice noodles tender.

The peanut hoisin dipping sauce was not overly sweet and balanced the flavor of the sprig of mint inside the rolls.

For my main course, I ordered the bún bò hue (\$8), a large bowl of spicy rice vermicelli noodles and a medley of sliced beef and pork.

Hot chili oil and jalapenos simmered in the spicy and savory beef broth.

Jovie's provides fast service – Guests are promptly seated and the food came out in less than five minutes.

If you're with a group of friends and feeling adventurous, try their pho challenge for \$22.

You have an hour to eat two pounds of noodles and two pounds of beef. The winner receives a certificate for a free bowl of soup at their next visit.



Jovie's Organic Saigon Spring Rolls are filled with pork, shrimp, rice noodles, cilantro and mint with a peanut hoisin dipping sauce. Photo by Thyra Phan / Spartan Daily



Café Artemis' chop shish comes with two juicy beef kabobs on tzatziki (yogurt dipping sauce) and a fresh mixed green salad dressed in olive oil. Photo by Thyra Phan / Spartan Daily

2 Café Artemis (\$\$)

Next to Rhee Beverage and Trudy's Brides in the Pruneyard Shopping Center, Café Artemis is a Turkish-Greek restaurant, serving healthy Mediterranean dishes bursting with olive oil and garlic flavors.

Café Artemis promotes a calming atmosphere with dim lighting and Turkish pop music. Guests have the option for indoor or outdoor seating.

The café serves typical Mediterranean fare from pita wraps (\$8.95) to kebabs (\$9.95).

Hot appetizers, such as stuffed eggplant (\$6.95) and cold appetizers such as hummus and baba ghanoush (\$5.95 each) are also served.

For my appetizer, I ordered the chop shish (\$6.95) which are cubes of grilled beef with herbed olive oil served over tzatziki, a yogurt dipping sauce. The cubes of beef were tender and juicy and the tzatziki sauce was thick and had a bit of crunch from cucumbers and dill.

Guests are served complimentary toasted bread with sesame seeds on top and garlic butter mixed with herbs and spices.

For my main entrée, I had a lamb kofta wrap (\$8.95), with juicy lamb served on a bed of salad and wrapped in a 10-inch pita.

The dish comes with a side salad of mixed greens, cucumbers, radishes, tomatoes, capers and a drizzle of olive oil and fresh lemon juice to help balance the meal.

Café Artemis has prompt service and it took about 10 minutes for the food to arrive.

Café Artemis also has an extensive wine list, with more than 30 different types of wine available. For the non-winners, a selection of 10 beers are available, including Efes Pilsen, a Turkish dark ale.

3 Sugar Butter Flour (\$)

Sugar Butter Flour is a quaint, box-sized shop next to Rock Bottom Restaurant and Buca di Beppo in the Pruneyard Shopping Center.

The bakery serves an assortment of sweets, from cookies (\$1.75) and cupcakes (\$3) to mini-sized cakes (\$4.75).

Guests may order coffee from the espresso bar or frozen yogurt.

I ordered the twice-baked cheesecake (\$4.75) and it was moist and creamy, but not overly sweet. A raspberry sits on top of the cheesecake with a light dusting of powdered sugar.

I also ordered the burnt almond cake (\$4.75) and it was light and fluffy, layered with chocolate and cream.

The cake was decadent and the burnt almonds had a slight candied texture.

Complimentary water and Wi-Fi are provided for guests, but indoor seating is limited to a few tables and chairs.

However, a patio with tables and chairs are available for guests who may want to enjoy their desserts outside.



Sugar Butter Flour's twice-baked cheesecake is moist and decadent but not overly sweet. Photo by Thyra Phan / Spartan Daily